





Three true color images showing the collapse of the Larsen B ice shelf in 2002.

Top: January 31, 2002. This image shows the shelf in late austral summer with dark bluish melt ponds dotting its surface.

Center: February 23, 2002. This shows minor retreat amounting to about 800 km², during which time several of the dark bluish melt ponds well away from the ice front drain through new cracks within the shelf.

Bottom: March 7, 2002. This image shows thousands of sliver icebergs and a large light blue area of very finely divided bergy bits where the shelf formerly lay. Brownish streaks within the floating chunks mark areas where rocks and morainal debris are exposed from the former underside and interior of the shelf. The last phases of the retreat totaled approximately 2,600 km².

(Data from the MODIS instrument on the Terra satellite.)